

# The Research of The Resocialization on Released Juvenile Delinquents Under Stigma

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**Abstract.** The heavy difficulty faced by released juvenile delinquents of resocialization and the risk of destroying social order plague individual happiness and social harmony. It is of great significance to promote resocialization for the healthy development of the individual released juvenile delinquent and the harmony and stability of society. Through the literature research method, the author defines the concept of juvenile delinquency, clarifies the research scope of this paper, and studies and analyzes the different types of stigmatization of juvenile delinquency and the different levels of support needed in the process of socialization. Finally, the study found that released juvenile delinquents are negatively affected by the three levels of stereotype, prejudice and discrimination, which seriously hinders the integration of released juvenile delinquents into society, that is, resocialization. In the process of the resocialization of released juvenile delinquents, the support provided by the three levels of family, society and personal psychology plays an almost decisive role. Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are made: 1. Establish a social acceptance mechanism for released juvenile delinquents. 2. Build a family perception of the identity acceptance of released juvenile delinquents. 3. Enhance the emotional openness of released juvenile delinquents.

**Keywords:** Stigma, Juvenile delinquents, Resocialization.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, with the rapid development of the economy and society, the social transformation has intensified. The problem of released juvenile delinquency is not optimistic, and the number of juvenile delinquencies is very large. Juveniles are the hope of the country. Their healthy growth, especially the healthy growth of juvenile delinquency, is a major event related to the future development of the country.

After a long period of social isolation, the released juvenile delinquents go out of prison and return to society. They need to regain confidence in life, return to family, continue their studies or work, and rebuild interpersonal relationships. Due to the physical isolation from social life for a long time, their social adaptability is relatively weakened. And due to the particularity of their experience, many social members have many doubts about their moral personality and serviceability. In addition, relevant theoretical research and practical investigation have also found that the peak of juvenile recidivism occurs within 1-3 years after their release. Therefore, the beginning of the return of teenagers to society from prison is the most difficult period and most dangerous period. They face the difficulties of integration and the risk of destroying the social order coexist, which often becomes trouble in individual happiness and social harmony.

Existing studies show that released juvenile delinquents have been stigmatized as "criminals" or "social deviants". Once released juvenile delinquents are labeled, they will be "socially isolated", thus forming prejudice, discrimination and exclusion against the target group. "Labeling" includes both formal social reflection—the handling of the judicial organs after the crime, and informal social response—the rejection, discrimination and unfair treatment of the outside society after the criminal returns to society. The "Crime label" has become a major obstacle for criminals to return to society, providing an environment and soil for the seeds of a recrime, and eventually triggering a recrime [1]. The stigmatization of released juvenile delinquents will make it difficult for released juvenile

delinquents to integrate into society again, and the obstruction of resocialization of released juvenile delinquents will lead them to re-crime.

Because the physical and mental development of minors is not mature. The lack of complete cognition of social things, compared with adults, the subjective malignancy of their illegal crimes and social harm is relatively small. Therefore, people should reduce the stress caused by the stigmatization of released juvenile delinquents, guiding the released juvenile delinquents to return to the right life track, and promoting the re-socialization of released juvenile delinquents. A civilized and open modern society should not only allow the full integration of all kinds of special groups of people, but also have the responsibility and obligation to promote the social integration of all kinds of special groups. It can be seen that promoting the social integration of the released juvenile delinquents and helping them get through the most dangerous and the most difficult stage are undoubtedly of special significance for the individual released juvenile delinquent to return to normal, stabilize the state of social life, and for the social harmony and stability.

How released juvenile delinquents return to a normal and stable social life is not only an important test of the government's ability to serve and manage special groups at the governance level, but also a heavy interrogation of the willingness of social members to accept special groups at the social concept level. Although juvenile delinquents' behavior has brought harm to specific social members, and damaged the social order, the crime problem cannot be simplified to a criminal problem. To return to society is not only their personal problem, but a civilized society must face together. Because society is the collection of the individual, individual and social share weal and woe, individual obligation to society, and society helps individuals.

Based on the theoretical and practical importance of the resocialization of released juvenile delinquents, with the support of individualism and social cognition theory, the author will research the pressure faced by juvenile delinquents under stigma, and try to explore the ways to recover the released juvenile delinquents' resilience and return to society smoothly.

## **2. Definition**

### **2.1. Juveniles**

Before clarifying the concept of released juvenile delinquents, it is necessary to first make clear the concept of "juveniles" as the subject of "released juvenile delinquents. Since the research object of this paper is the juveniles who commit criminal acts, the concept of juveniles should be defined in the category of the criminal justice system.

Actually, there is no concept of "minor" in the relevant United Nations legal documents. "The United Nations Minimum Standards Rules for Juvenile Justice" defines the concept of a juvenile, in terms that the standard for determining being a juvenile lies in the manner of being handled on account of a crime. At the same time, "the United Nations Rules on the Protection of those deprived of Freedom" and "the Convention on the Rights of the Child" define "juveniles" by the age of 18. International documents on juvenile criminal justice provide a guiding principle for countries to define the scope of minors, usually using age as the criterion of distinction. However, due to different historical factors, the process of the rule of law and values in different countries in the world, they have different understandings of minors, and the division of the age of criminal responsibility is not unified.

In addition, the concept of juveniles and teenagers should be distinguished. These two concepts are often understood according to different needs, and are even used differently. But strictly speaking, teenagers are not a legal concept, but a sociological concept. In China, teenagers generally refer to citizens aged 14-25 [2]. Therefore, in this article, the "juvenile" in the "released juvenile delinquents" refers to minors under the age of 14 and the age of 18.

## 2.2. Released juvenile delinquents

In modern criminal legislation, the definition of "criminal behavior" makes a distinction between juveniles and adults. For example, in English, "delinquency" is used for the former and "crime" for the latter. The broad concept of "released juvenile delinquents" is given from the criminological perspective of the definition, which includes three meanings in addition to the narrow concept. First, the behavior also has serious social harm. If it is implemented by adults, it will often constitute a crime in the criminal law, but based on the special protection of juveniles, the criminal policy is reduced to general illegal behavior. Second, delinquents only violate other legal provisions, but also do not violate the penal, and the social harm is not great, such as the violation of public security management behavior. Third, the serious bad behavior that is obviously not consistent with the identity characteristics of juveniles, such as truancy, staying out all night, alcoholism and other "identity crimes".

Combined with the research purpose of this paper, the author adopts the narrow concept of released juvenile delinquents. Therefore, the released juvenile delinquents mentioned in this article should refer to people over the age of 14 and under 18 for violating the penal code, not including illegal behavior and bad behavior in the broad sense.

## 2.3. Resocialization

Resocialization is a core concept of this study. This study defines "resocialization" based on the theory of social integration. It believes that "resocialization" refers to the continuous and reflective social action process between released juvenile delinquents and other social subjects on different levels in a certain social-spatial and temporal background, so as to realize normal participation in social life and enjoy the corresponding social welfare. The concept includes the following three points. First, to regard resocialization as an active, continuous and reflective social action process, emphasizing that the released juvenile delinquents are the active subject, not only restricted by social structure. Second, to regard resocialization as a multi-level, multi-stage social integration process, emphasizing the continuity and systematization of the process. Third, to realize normal participation in social life and the enjoyment of the corresponding social welfare as the goal of resocialization. On this basis, the author defines the resocialization of the released juvenile delinquents as the continuous and reflective social action process between the released juvenile delinquents in a vulnerable position and other social subjects on different levels in a specific social-spatial and temporal background, so as to realize the normal participation of social life and enjoy the corresponding social welfare.

## 3. Stigmatization

A group will impose the inferiority of human nature on another group and maintain the dynamic process. It stereotypes the negative characteristics of the group bias, and thus masks the other characteristics, becoming the indicators corresponding to the group characteristics in an essential sense. In this process, on the mighty and not stigmatized side one of the most often adopted a strategy, namely "labeling". Stigmatization of released juvenile delinquents can be divided into two types: One is the social stigma from the outside world, and the other is the perceived self-stigma that has been internalized.

Link and Phelan's definitions of stigma and Major and O'Brien's definitions of stigma both acknowledge the roles of the environment, time and culture on stigma. They both think members of stigmatized groups have been portrayed as passive victims of others' negative stereotypes, prejudicial attitudes, and discriminatory behaviors [3,4].

### 3.1. Social stigma

#### 3.1.1 Stereotypes

It refers to people's general and fixed view of the formation of a certain thing or object, and extends this view, believing that this thing or the whole has this characteristic, while ignoring individual

differences. The stereotype under the juvenile delinquency label refers to a wrong and solidified cognition of the whole society for released juvenile delinquents.

For released juvenile delinquents, the general public will think that they are more aggressive and have higher violent tendencies, and believe that they cannot live in normal harmony with others, but in fact, this is not the case.

### **3.1.2 Prejudice**

Prejudice is an unfair, unreasonable, negative attitude towards a certain person or group. It is people's negative understanding and attitude towards people and things separated from objective facts. In most cases, prejudice is an attitude formed toward the members of certain social groups, based solely on their membership, and is often an incorrect negative or hostile attitude. It is the cognitive and emotional expression of social stereotypes.

People tend to hate and fear released juvenile delinquents, considering them deviant people in society. People believe that juvenile delinquents have "lost their future" and there will be no success in their lives, thinking that they do not and do not deserve to integrate into society again to achieve a normal life, and are hostile to juvenile delinquents.

### **3.1.3 Discrimination**

Discrimination is caused by biased awareness and attitudes. It is the negative behavior that points directly to the prejudiced target or the victim. Discrimination is an emotional reaction and behavior between different interest groups. Discrimination generally consists of two interest groups: the discriminatory party and the discriminated party. Under normal circumstances, the discriminating party defies, slander, isolates or even hurts it in its remarks or actions because of threats or challenges to its status, rights, interests, habits and culture. Discrimination is in fact when the discriminatory party is looking for reasons which are reluctant to put it bluntly, to maintain unreasonable, illegal, unfair and unjust matters. To achieve the purpose of safeguarding the status, rights, interests, habits and culture of the discriminatory party. It is the presentation of bias at the behavioral level.

The exclusion of resocialization involves economic, political, public service and social relations. Among them, the economic exclusion is mainly manifested as limited employment opportunities and cannot enter the labor market smoothly. Political exclusion is mainly unable to hold state offices. Public service exclusion mainly fails to enjoy equal educational opportunities and health services to other social groups. Social relationship exclusion is mainly manifested as the breaking up of the social relationship with other social members or social groups, and it is unable to enter the social relationship network of other groups [5].

## **3.2. Perceived self-stigma**

Perceived self-stigma is mainly a sense of shame resulting from committing a crime.

As "stigma" characteristics, released juvenile delinquents will internalize social stigma from the outside world, consciously belong to lower social status class or not recognized groups, produce inner humiliation, retreat, escape, and other behavior, and psychological symptoms such as depression, maladjustment, reduce the initiative of communication with the mainstream groups, it will inevitably influence the access to more social resources, hindering their integration into the mainstream of society.

## **4. Support from Different People**

### **4.1. Family support**

Young people attach more attention to social support from families and friends, and affirm recognition of youth minorities to promote self-acceptance, self-esteem and health, otherwise, serious problems such as homelessness and suicide will appear. For adults, social support from friends was more strongly associated with mental health than social support from the family. As the most

important environmental system for the growth of minors, the family environment plays a vital role in the social integration of minors released from prison [6].

Resilience in the family context involves belief systems that shape the meaning of adversity, views of positive outcomes, understandings of family cultural history in the context of social and economic resources, and communication processes such as emotional expression and problem-solving. The family also acts as a conduit for spiritual beliefs that may help traumatized individuals to develop protective coping mechanisms.

Released juvenile delinquents get the support of a family network, and maintaining a stable state of family kinship can let them have a sense of family belonging, from worry into a positive attitude towards life. This attitude of transformation is conducive to their resocialization process after being released from prison, at the same time psychologically removing their inferiority and negative life attitude, putting an end to crime probability caused by discrimination from society and family, which is conducive to the stable development of society.

#### **4.2. Social support**

Social acceptance plays an important role in supporting the resocialization of released juvenile delinquents. Society should shape an inclusive social awareness to accept released juvenile delinquents and be treated equally, and to provide resettlement, education and assistance support for released juvenile delinquents, to promote their resocialization.

Furthermore, Kwon proposed that social relationships promote health and well-being through two distinct mechanisms: the promotion of social connectedness and stress buffering. Social support can lead to a sense of connection with the minority community, contributing to psychological health. In addition, the stress-buffering mechanism of social support lowers reactivity to prejudice [7].

#### **4.3. Individual**

Emotional openness is an important resilience factor in the general population. People with high hope pursue goals with willpower and determination, successfully plan ways of achieving goals, and overcome goal-related obstacles. Hopeful thinking not only buffers the negative impact of prejudice and discrimination but also serves as a source of motivation in pursuing goals for the future [8].

### **5. Suggestions**

A healthy, harmonious and harmonious family relationship is crucial to the mental health and development of minors. Living in a harmonious family, minors will be healthy, happy and positive. The unhealthy family relationship will lead minors to live in a bad family atmosphere, so that the released juvenile delinquent is still in the situation of fighting or fleeing the family. Therefore, the families of minors should be helped to establish good family relationships. Family members should not discriminate against released juvenile delinquents [9]. After the juvenile delinquents return to their families, the family members should give them maximum tolerance, and not discriminate, corporal punishment or abuse because of their crimes. They should accept the juvenile offenders with a tolerant attitude, and adopt the right way to conduct education, so that they can feel the warmth and strength of the family.

Society should strive to eliminate the negative impact of stigma on released juvenile delinquents, and establish a social acceptance mechanism for juvenile delinquents [10]. Through the mainstream media to publicize the position of anti-stigma, appropriate publicity of the legal citizenship and status of juvenile delinquents to enhance public acceptance, carry out positive public opinion publicity, and call on the public to reduce stigmatize others. Scientifically propagate the concept of punishment in modern society to enhance social tolerance to realize that released juvenile delinquents get rid of the brand of "criminal" and realize resocialization. At the same time, society should constantly improve the relevant policies to settle, help and educate released juvenile delinquents. Society should create

an institutional environment for equal protection, strengthen the legal responsibility for discrimination, and take active actions to promote the resocialization of released juvenile delinquents.

As far as released juvenile delinquents are concerned, they should actively accept education and reform, and spontaneously integrate into society. They should pay attention to their own mental state, accept psychological counseling services when necessary, and maintain confidence in their future life. They should also enhance emotional openness, buffer the negative effects of prejudice and discrimination, and provide motivation for the pursuit of future goals.

## 6. Conclusion

Unable to complete resocialization means that released juvenile delinquents cannot return to social life, and that their lives will not go on normally and smoothly. In some countries where individuals are closely linked to their family relations, such as China, their families, as organizations closely linked to the released juvenile delinquents' individuals, are usually also stigmatized and discriminated against. It is even more obvious that juvenile delinquency has great harm to society. Therefore, it is of great significance to individuals, families and society of juvenile offenders to promote the resilience of released juvenile delinquents and promote resocialization.

Through the literature research method, this paper analyzes the process of stigmatization of released juvenile delinquents, providing information to explore how to help reduce the pressure of released juvenile delinquents under stigmatizing and promoting the re-socialization smoothly of released juvenile delinquents.

It is believed that with the development of relevant research, social policies will be improved, social awareness will progress, and the negative impact of stigma in the process of re-socialization of released juvenile delinquents can be controlled. By reducing social stigma and perceived self-stigma, juvenile offenders can get an unhindered resocialization environment and then smoothly reintegrate into society.

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